

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 L-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 CIEP-01 PC-01 AID-05 AGR-05 SS-15 EB-07 IGA-01

CU-02 /075 W

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R 060845Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7339

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR AMBASSADOR SNEIDER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: ROKG CONSIDERS NEW YEAR RELEASE OF EMERGENCY MEASURES
PRISONERS

REF: SEOUL 7908

1. DEC 6 PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT ACCORDING TO "HIGHLY PLACED
GOVERNMENT SOURCE" ROKG IS CONSIDERING GRANTING SPECIAL AMNESTY
TO MANY OF THOSE CONVICTED BY EMERGENCY MEASURES COURTS-
MARTIAL BY EARLY NEXT YEAR. SOURCE REPORTEDLY ALSO SAID THAT
CLEMENCY WILL BE CONSIDERED ON CONDITION VARIOUS SITUATIONS
WARRANT IT.

2. THERE ARE SEVERAL PRECONDITIONS FOR ROKG AWARDING
OF SPECIAL AMNESTY ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT'S SOURCE,
INCLUDING FOLLOWING:

(A) SUPREME COURT MUST COMPLETE ITS PROCEDURES; THIS WILL NOT BE
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UNTIL BEGINNING NEXT YEAR (ROKG REPORTS THAT 74 APPEALS TO

SUPREME COURT HAVE NOT YET BEEN REVIEWED;)

(B) THOSE CONVICTED MUST RECOGNIZE THEIR WRONGDOING;

(C) RELATIVES OF THOSE CONVICTED MUST END "MOVES" AGAINST GOVT.

3. THOSE TO BE EXCLUDED OUTRIGHT FROM THIS AMNESTY ARE MEMBERS OF LEFTIST PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRP), WHO WERE NOT AMONG THOSE CONVICTED UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURES AND STUDENTS "WHO DENIED CAPITALIST SOCIAL SYSTEM AND ATTEMPTED TO OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT." LATTER CATEGORY IF STRICTLY INTERPRETED COULD ENCOMPASS ALMOST EVERY STUDENT CONVICTED UNDER PRESIDENTIAL DECREES.

4. REPORTED STATEMENT IS AMPLIFICATION OF WHAT KIM JONG-PIL TOLD NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LEADERS ON NOVEMBER 25 (REFTEL). PRIMIN'S PRESS SECRETARY HAS TOLD US HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT SOURCE; HOWEVER MAEIL SHINMUM REPORTER WHO WAS PRESENT AT PRIMIN PRESS CONFERENCE DEC 4 TOLD EMBOFF PRIMIN IS INDEED SOURCE. MAEIL SHINMUN REPORTER TELLS US PRIMIN AT SAME CONFERENCE ADMITTED TO NEED FOR AMENDING CONSTITUTION, ALTHOUGH NOT RIGHT NOW, AND FORECAST PRESIDENT PARK WOULD GO "AWAY SOMEWHERE" WHEN PRESENT TERM IN OFFICE EXPIRES.
ERICSON

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30 JUN 2005

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